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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/719,183	11/21/2003	Craig D. Ellis	8266-1187	3235

25367 7590 03/31/2005  
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EXAMINER

HEWITT, JAMES M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Oath/Declaration***

The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because:

The number of the PCT application filed 8/24/98 should be provided.

### ***Specification***

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

The title should be amended to correspond to the title provided in the declaration.

As U.S. Application No. 09/509,452 has issued to patent, its patent number should be provided after the reference made to the '452 application in the first paragraph of the specification.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Objections***

Claims 16-18 and 22-27 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 16 line 1, "the" should be inserted before "housing".

In claim 22 line 8, the second period should be deleted.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Double Patenting***

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claim 16 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 33 of U.S. Patent No. 6,735,799. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the differences therebetween are not substantive.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 16, 18, 20-22 and 26-27 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Volk (US 5,267,364).

Volk discloses a fluid supply apparatus for supplying fluid to a therapy device on a bed having a barrier, the apparatus comprising a housing (box attached to footboard); a fluid supply located within the housing; first and second hangers (hooks) coupled to the housing and configured to couple the housing to the barrier (footboard) in first and second orientations. Note that the first orientation may be as shown in Figure 1, and the second may be with one hanger attached to the footboard and the other hanger not attached to the footboard (e.g. laterally outward of the footboard). The housing includes an elongated slot (see Figure 1) defining a storage receptacle, the slot formed adjacent a bottom end of the housing below the fluid supply.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 14-15, 29 and 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell et al (US 5,664,270) in view of Bartlett et al (US 5,611,096), and further in view of Volk (US 5,267,364).

Bell et al discloses a patient interface system having several detachable components linked electronically to bed assembly 11. The components include transducers 30a-g, external operative devices 40a-b, printer 26, communication system 51, and external processor storage 27. The bed includes a CPU 36, sensors 34a-c,

numerous connection ports (transducer, printer, monitor, communication). A touch screen 16 is provided and is explained in detail in column 12 lines 10-35. Bedside medical devices can either be connected to the device by cable or wireless connections, and is capable of controlling various medical device related to the bed or patient, including patient turn actuators, scales, inflation devices, etc. Bell et al fails to teach that a fluid supply is located within the housing 80. Bartlett teaches a patient interface system for a bed including a fluid supply located within a housing. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bell et al with a fluid supply integral with his housing, as opposed to attachable thereto, in order to avoid having to connect and detach and reconnect and detach the fluid supply when required. Bell et al and Bartlett et al fail to teach that their device includes first and second hangers configured to couple the housing in first and second orientations respectively. Volk discloses a fluid supply apparatus for supplying fluid to a therapy device on a bed having a barrier, the apparatus comprising a housing (box attached to footboard); a fluid supply located within the housing; first and second hangers (hooks) coupled to the housing and configured to couple the housing to the barrier (footboard) in first and second orientations. Note that the first orientation may be as shown in Figure 1, and the second may be with one hanger attached to the footboard and the other hanger not attached to the footboard (e.g. laterally outward of the footboard). The housing includes an elongated slot (see Figure 1) defining a storage receptacle, the slot formed adjacent a bottom end of the housing below the fluid supply. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to modify the Bell et al and Bartlett et al device with hangers as taught by Volk in order to vary the position of the housing along the end of the therapy device.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 2-13 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

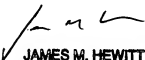
Note that the allowability of claim 17 is also contingent upon overcoming the above-noted objection to claim 16 (see ***Claim Objections*** above).

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James M Hewitt whose telephone number is 703-305-0552. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 930am-600pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 703-308-2686. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
**JAMES M. HEWITT**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**